

CIA Military Reserve Unit

1745 - 17 October 1977

Intelligence Update

A. Past 7 months

- looking at/explaining past
- value: find ways to prevent reoccurrence

B. Moving ahead in several important areas

1. ethics - foundation of all we do
2. legislation/regulation - boundaries within which must operate.
3. oversight - ensure operating within those boundaries
4. attitudes - nurturing public support through better understanding of what we do.

Let me discuss each briefly.

C. Ethics - working on a Code

- Difficult illusive
- Problems -
  - a. Values hard to pin down & change over time.
  - b. Can't test secret actions against public consensus.
- Whether or not code possible - salutary effect of discussions & raised sensitivity to issues.

E. Oversight

1. You know Pres/VP, Senate very active/interested.
  2. Now, House Committee; new IOB.
- F. Risks - oversight - Legislation - Regulation
1. Timidity - LCD
  2. Security leaks.
- Balance - next few years critical

G. Attitudes - Balance between Openness & Secrecy

1. American model vs British
  - public scrutiny - safeguard against abuses
  - government openness/informed electorate: fundamental strength.
2. Initiatives taken
  - MKULTRA disclosures
    - o voluntary disclosure
    - o not being done/condoned today
    - o hope last disclosure of its kind, but even if not, must face squarely - refuse to be drawn into wrangling over past
  - Media accessibility
    - o dispell mystique
    - o gain public understanding/support
      - Time
      - Sixty Minutes
  - Future of tours at Headquarters.
  - Studies published (unclassified)

- o includes public in work
- o return on investment
- o informed electorate
  - Soviet economy study
  - Energy study

3. Secrecy - can't/won't open up entirely

- Two approaches
  - o Declassify
  - o Tighten security
- Advantages
  - o Less to safeguard
  - o Greater respect

G. Prognosis

- Future looks bright
- Public better informed on intel activities
- I am devoting 2-3 days a month to speaking around the country - business, academic, professional groups.

Main theme: explaining

- why intelligence is important,
- why acquiring some information is worth the risks we must take.
- the surrogate control mechanisms.
- our desire to serve the public honorably and well.

- Questions/discussions are reasoned, sometimes difficult, but always receptive to an honest, forthright answer.
- See IC on way up in public esteem. We must continue to demonstrate we deserve that trust.